

**Business and Community Advisory Council
March 17, 2009**

Welcome

The BCAC and CLC have been combined and the newest members were acknowledged by Dr. Dale and Andrea Sobel. The round table introductions began with Andrea Sobel.

Superintendent Update

Dr. Dale began the meeting with the budget updates. There will be a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors and the School Board and the final decision will be made by April 30. The original transfer increase request was \$56.8 million. The net funds available are at about \$35.5 million which will bring the total to \$21.3 million. The funding for county reduction is about \$3.7 million which will bring the total request to \$25 million, only two-thirds of the cost of membership growth will be covered by the county. None of the state revenue loss will be covered by an increase in the county transfer.

FCPS should receive \$23.7 million from the stimulus package but would still fall short of about \$14.8 million. The enrollment projection was re-examined and reduced by about 900 students. Other reductions include the freeze on salaries and increasing the classroom by .5 students. Work load is increased by 10% for all support personnel and will take effect in the fall '09. Additional reductions will include school resource officers, reduction in clinic aides, and MS after school programs. A request was made to make fewer cuts in the head start program. There will be a public hearing on March 31. Dan Storck will present the proposal to the School Board and the final decision will be on April 30.

Funds received from the stimulus package will go to Title I schools and special education programs and must be used to supplement programs children with special needs.

Discussion

Question: With the increase of class size, how will the money help the head start program?

Answer: Funds from the stimulus package will go to Title I ES.

Question: Why can't some of the funds go to the MS and HS.

Answer: The funds must go to the neediest areas. The ES are at 40% currently.

Question: Can there be different levels of allocating funds at the different levels of schools?

Answer: The funds must go to the areas where the poverty level is the highest. An additional \$20 million was added to ES due to ESOL and the poverty level.

- **Dean Tistadt Assist. Supt., Facilities and Transportation Services**

The actual hours that are used by the community are more than the actual hours used for instructional purposes. This can be for various functions and activities. The high schools are used more often than the elementary and middle schools due to the size and location of the school.

- **Amy Craig, Coordinator, Community Use**

The policies regarding community use in the schools can be found on the website. Regulation 8420.5 contains a wealth of information concerning community use in the schools. The fees collected for the use of the facilities are managed by financial services. The funds are centrally collected and then dispersed back to the originating school. The school received 15% and the rest of the money goes into the general fund. The funds are managed through FS Direct and FAMIS. The applications are online. This is done on a monthly basis.

- **Lee Ann Pender, Director, Administrative Services**

Policies regarding the use of community use of the facilities can be found on the FCPS website. Regulation 8420.5 contains a wealth of information. The funds are centrally collected and managed by FS Direct and FAMIS accounting system through financial services. The school receives 15% of the amount and the rest of the money goes into the general FCPS fund. This is done on a monthly basis. Applications for community use can be online.

- **Aaron Engley, Administrator, West Potomac Academy**

The funds collected goes into a school fund which is managed through FS Direct. However, 80% of users do not pay for the use of the facilities. Business Partners are charged a reduced rate as stated in the terms of the partnership agreement.

Due to the high demand for space, auditoriums are quite often booked a year or more in advance.

Questions and discussion:

Question: Are the school libraries also available to children that are home schooled?

Answer: No

Question: If a function needs to be re-scheduled due to incimate weather, is there any flexibility in the schedule?

Answer: Depending on the popularity of the location, there can be a problem if the requested re-scheduled date is already reserved for another function. It is suggested to over book your event or plan an alternate date.

Question: Why doesn't FCPS publicize public use of the schools?

Answer: Schools are encouraged to have business partners. The partnership agreement will state how the business can provide assistance to the school and in return the business will be able to use the school's facilities such as meeting rooms, athletic fields, auditorium and gymnasiums.

Comment: Community use of the FCPS is very beneficial to the community

Question: Is there a plan to put in turf fields at each of the high schools? Can money from the school bonds be used for the turf fields?

Answer: The turf fields are funded through the county and schools bonds cannot be used for the fields.

Question: What areas in the schools can be used for community use?

Answer: There is limited access to the schools. Classrooms, kitchens, and computers are not available for community use.

Question: What is the cost for FCPS for the community to use the schools?

Answer: There is a minimal cost to the schools for use of janitorial services. The rental contracts have built in increases of 5% to 10% in regards to surrounding jurisdictions.

Question: When a school is being renovated, how does this affect the community use of the school?

Answer: This is worked out case by case. Sometimes there is not an impact. Community use is coordinated through Amy Craig.

Question: What is the impact to the school and the priority of the students?

Answer: The instructional program is the #1 priority.

Question: When will the final vote concerning the change is schedule?

Answer: Voting will be on March 19. There may be an additional survey and community meetings to modify start times to benefit HS students.

Question: Do students loose credits due to transportation time to and from the academy?

Answer: No. The junior and seniors who are taking classes at the academy have already earned enough of the core credits that are needed for graduation.

Question: What were the some of the comments from the survey?

Answer: Parents were concerned about juggling a variety of issues. There was concern that if the schools were released later in the day, this would put the school buses into rush hour traffic. There were concerns that family time would be disrupted, afterschool activities would be affected work schedules would need to be adjusted for students who have after school jobs and parents of the elementary schools that would be affected by the change in time.

Closing

There are only two more meetings for the 2008-2009 school year. Andrea would like for members to think about changes or improvement to the BCAC for next year and will discuss the recommendations at the meeting in May.

The next meeting will be on April 21, 2009 at 7:30.

The meeting ended at 9:30.